

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 AF-10 ARA-16

EA-11 NEA-10 /226 W

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O 021145Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4060

INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GATT, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS - CITRUS

DEPARTMENT PASS STR EBERLE

1. IN FOLLOW UP TO AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S CALL LAST NIGHT
I WAS ABLE TO REACH PRIME MINISTER RUMOR BEFORE 9 THIS
MORNING. I EXPLAINED TO HIM AGAIN THAT THE 24.6 NEGOTIATIONS HAVE
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BECOME A SERIOUS POLITICAL ISSUE AND THAT THE ITALIAN WERE

ACCORDING TO MY INFORMATION, A PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCK IN REACHING SOME KIND OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EC-9. WHEN RUMOR PROTESTED THAT HE HAD DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH CITRUS, I IMPRESSED ON HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCCESS IN THIS VENTURE BECAUSE OF THE GRAVITY OF POSSIBLE FAILURE. RUMOR PROMISED ONCE AGAIN TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO TO IMPROVE THE ITALIAN POSITION. THIS IS MY THIRD URGENT CONVERSATION ABOUT CITRUS AND TOBACCO WITH RUMOR IN THE LAST FEW DAYS AND I THINK I HAVE ABOUT RUN OUT THE STRING AS FAR AS THIS KIND OF PRESSURE IS CONCERNED.

2. WHILE I WAS GETTING IN TOUCH WITH RUMOR THE DCM WAS PRESSING RUMOR'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER PETRIGNANI TO ORGANIZE STAFF SUPPORT WHICH WOULD HELP RUMOR IN HIS EFFORTS TO MEET MY REQUEST. PETRIGNANI HAS JUST CALLED BACK AND TOLD DCM OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH GUAZZARONI (ECONOMIC DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MFA) WHO IS IN LUXEMBOURG WITH ITALIAN DELEGATION.

3. GUAZZARONI COMPLAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IN LUXEMBOURG HAS TOLD ALL OF THE EC DELEGATIONS ABOUT OUR UNHAPPINESS WITH THE ITALIAN POSITION BUT THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION HAS NOT YET DISCUSSED DIRECTLY WITH THE ITALIANS ACCORDING TO GUAZZARONI. PETRIGNANI SAID IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO THOSE OF US WHO WANT A SOLUTION IF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WOULD MAKE THE FULL FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES POSITION CLEAR TO THE ITALIANS IN LUXEMBOURG.

4. TURNING TO SUBSTANCE, PETRIGNANI SAID THAT THE COUNCIL ON APRIL 1 DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF REOPENING THE EC OFFER ON 24.6. FRANCE WAS AGAINST BUT ITALY WAS IN FAVOR. REPORTS THIS MORNING INDICATE THAT FRANCE IS LESS NEGATIVE ON REOPENING THE OFFER BUT WISHES ASSURANCES FROM THE COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO CHICKENS. (NEITHER PETRIGNANI NOR WE UNDERSTAND THIS REFERENCE TO CHICKENS BUT PERHAPS BRUSSELS AND LUXEMBOURG HAVE BETTER INFORMATION.) THE SUBSTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES POSITION WAS NOT RAISED IN DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL. HOWEVER, THE 113 COMMITTEE MET LAST NIGHT AND BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON SUBSTANCE. PETRIGNANI REPORTS THAT WITH REGARD TO CITRUS THERE WERE FIVE COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO IMPROVING THE OFFER. THESE
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WERE BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG, FRANCE, IRELAND AND ITALY. THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS WERE PARTICULARLY VOCAL IN OPPOSING AN IMPROVEMENT ON CITRUS ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD HARM THE INTERESTS OF THE ASSOCIATED STATES (WE ASSUME THIS TO MEAN THAT IT WOULD DILUTE THE PREFERENCE FOR SPAIN, ISRAEL AND THE MAGHREB).

5. THE COUNCIL WILL, THE ITALIANS BELIEVE, DECIDE LATER TODAY

IN FAVOR OF REOPENING THE 24.6 OFFER AND INSTRUCT THE
COMMISSION TO SEEK CONTACT WITH THE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATORS.
THE PERMREPS IN BRUSSEL WILL CONSIDER THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
UNITED STATES POSITION IN A QUOTE FEW DAYS UNQUOTE.

6. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE I CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT
THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IN LUXEMBOURG MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT
WITH THE ITALIAN DELEGATION AND AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE
ITALIANS RECEIVE OUR VIEWS SECOND-HAND FROM THE OTHER EC DELS.
IT ALSO SEEMS USEFUL TO ARGUE THE CASE ON CITRUS WITH SOME
OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES OPPOSING AN IMPROVED OFFER. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOBACCO, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS, CITRUS FRUITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME04515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740073-0023
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740372/aaaacpdm.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GATT ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS - CITRUS DEPARTMENT PASS STR EBERLE
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT, GATT, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005